Plan to Boost Exports by Public Sector Undertakings

734 MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE
DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:
SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that public sector undertakings are being assigned a major role in boosting the country's exports;

(b) whether it is a fact that an action plan has been worked out for the purpose;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) what is the target fixed for 1985-86 *vis-a-vis* 1984-85; and

(e) what steps are being taken to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (e) The details are being collected and a statement will be placed on the Table of the House.

Merger of Luxmi Commercial Bank with Punjab National Bank

735. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Punjab National Bank, New Delhi a Government of India enterprise had submitted a comprehensive proposal for merger of the Luxmi Commercial Bank Limited, New Delhi with it to the Reserve Bank of India, Bombay, and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action is being taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANSARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) No decision was taken by the Government to merge Lakshmi Commercial Bank Limited with Punjab National Bank although such a proposal was considered by the Government and Reserve Bank of India. Weighing all relevant factors, it has been decided to merge the Lakshmi Commercial Bank Limited with Canara Bank.

Phasing out of Freight Equalisation Scheme in respect of Iron and Steel

736. SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI S. W. DHABE:

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken to phase out the Freight Equalisation Scheme in respect of iron and steel as per the recommendations of the Pandey Committee; and

(b) what are the reasons for the delay in implementing the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) The modalities and time-phasing of the withdrawal of the Freight Equalisation Scheme are being worked out in consultation with the other Ministries concerned.

Crisis in Jute Industry in West Benga

737. SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI S. W. DHABE:

Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken for solving the crisis in jute industry in West Bengal; and